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Air Force Reserve Contact Center supports TRICARE enrollment

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Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center

DENVER -- The FY 2005 National Defense Authorization act established a new entitlement, TRICARE Reserve Select, for certain Reserve component members. This is a premium-based healthcare plan for members and their families who served on active duty in support of a contingency anytime since Sept. 11, 2001.

Recently, the Air Force Reserve Contact Center here became the sole point of contact for questions and services for all Reservists who want to enroll in TRICARE Reserve Select.

This is the first time ARPC has been able to provide a service to all Reserve members (IMA and Unit Reservists) under the auspices of centralizing personnel services under the AF Personnel Services Delivery Transformation Shared Services Organization model.

TRS offers a bridge for Reservists leaving active duty who are not covered by a civilian employer or other health insurance plans. It is similar to TRICARE Standard and comparable to the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Plan for federal employees.

For each active duty service period of 90 consecutive days, each member is entitled to one year of TRICARE coverage while in a non-active duty status. Enrollment in this program requires a Selected Reserve commitment for the period of coverage. That commitment must be executed by October 28 and each member must be serving in the Select Reserve prior to the date TRS is to start.

Coverage begins on the date of the agreement to serve in the Selected Reserve, the expiration of transitional TRICARE benefits, or April 26, whichever is later. The decision to enroll in TRS is a one-time choice and the earliest effective date of coverage is April 26.

TRICARE coverage ends when the service agreement ends and stops sooner if the Reservist separates from the Selected Reserve, voluntarily withdraws from the program or fails to pay the monthly premiums. Monthly premiums will be \$75 for an individual Reservist and \$233 for a Reservist and their family.

Mobilized Reserve component members released from active duty after April 26 will be advised of their eligibility as part of their demobilization process.

Reserve component members serving on voluntary active duty man-day tours who do not go through out processing, as well as mobilized members must call the Air Force Reserve Contact Center at 1-800-525-0102 to start the enrollment process.

Please note that members who serve on voluntary man-day tours, who may be serving active duty for active duty organizations or Air National Guard organizations in support of a contingency must ensure HQ ARPC/XPC is in possession of their active duty orders.

This will ensure the proper coding for a contingency tour is entered in the personnel system. Without this order, eligibility cannot be confirmed. If a member un-enrolls or is no longer qualified, the member may not re-enroll unless recalled to active duty and a new qualification period is earned.

TRS coverage is superseded by active duty health benefits for members recalled to active duty, and upon release, the member will resume coverage after transitional benefits expire.

Members who would like to enroll can go on line to www.tricare.osd.mil (prior to the end date on their orders) and follow the instructions for the TRS program.

After completing the DD form 2895, fax it to (478) 327-2215/DSN 497-2215 or mail it to the AF Reserve Contact Center, HQ ARPC/PSDC1, 6760 E. Irvington Place #4010, Denver, Colo. 80280-4010.

The Contact Center will verify/approve the member's coverage and forward the completed form for filing. Questions can be directed to the AF Reserve Contact Center at 1-800-525-0102. They can also be reached on the Web at https://arpc.afrc.af.mil/customer_support_on.htm, then click "New Request."

The TRICARE Web site – www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect– has further details. To get updates by e-mail, Reservists and their families can subscribe to www.tricare.osd.mil/tricaresubscriptions/.